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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,781	02/27/2004	Hua-Hsiang Lin	#21169-163	6156

7590 11/30/2004

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EXAMINER

SAFAVI, MICHAEL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3673

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/788,781	LIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	M. Safavi	3673	<i>NW</i>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on February 27, 2004 & July 16, 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3, 6-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,240,584 to Perez et al.

Perez et al. discloses, Figs. 1-3 and 5 for example, an inflatable product comprising a plurality of chambers (40, 42, etc.) at least two of the chambers (82/84, 40) adjoining one another in whole or in part, at least one unidirectional valve (98, 122, 130, 150) connecting any pair of adjoining chambers, an inlet port (131) through which fluid can be introduced into the inflatable product, an exhaust port (114) through which fluid can exit the inflatable product, and a means (64) for introducing fluid into the inflatable product.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 1, 3, 6-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,148,461 to Cook et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,568,011 to Fisher et al.

Cook et al. discloses, Figs 1 and 2, an inflatable product comprising a plurality of chambers (11), at least two of the chambers (12, 13) adjoining one another in whole or in part, at least one unidirectional valve (33) connecting any pair of adjoining chambers at an adjoining surface (34), an inlet port (31), and means (25) for introducing fluid into the inflatable product. Cook et al. fails to disclose the product also having an exhaust port through which fluid can exit the product. Fisher et al. discloses an inflatable mattress comprising an inlet port (210) and an exhaust port (212). The exhaust port allows for rapid deflation of the mattress. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the inflatable product of Cook et al. with an exhaust port so as to rapidly deflate the inflatable product, as is taught by Fisher et al.

5. Claims 2 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perez et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,349,984 to Weinheimer et al.

Perez et al. discloses the claimed invention except for the unidirectional valve being spring loaded. Weinheimer et al. discloses that it is well known in the valve art that unidirectional check valves are spring loaded. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the

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check valves of Perez et al. as spring loaded so as to provide a valve which remains closed when little or no back pressure is present, as is taught by Weinheimer et al.

6. Claims 1, 3, 5-8, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,539,568 to Lee, Jr. in view of Fisher et al.

Lee, Jr. discloses an inflatable product comprising a plurality of chambers, at least two of said chambers (19, 20) adjoining one another in whole or in part, at least one unidirectional valve (21) connecting the two adjoining chambers, and an inlet port (14). A fluid such as a gas or liquid is utilized, col. 2, lines 49-50. Lee, Jr. fails to disclose the inflatable product further comprising an outlet port and apparently fails to specifically disclose a means for introducing fluid into the inflatable product. Fisher et al. disclose an inflatable product comprising an exhaust port. The exhaust port provides for rapid deflation of the inflatable product. A means for introducing fluid into the inflatable product is disclosed at col. 4, lines 22-24. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the inflatable product Lee, Jr. with an exhaust port so as to provide for rapid deflation of the product as well as provide for a means for introducing fluid into the inflatable product for ease of inflation, as is taught by Fisher et al.

7. Claims 4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perez et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,550,086 to Boyd.

Perez et al. discloses the claimed invention except for the inlet port being a unidirectional valve. Boyd discloses an inflatable product comprising a unidirectional inlet port. The valve is normally biased to the closed position to prevent changes in the inflatable product's level of inflation. Thus it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the Perez et al. inlet port as a unidirectional valve so as to prevent changes in the inflatable product's level of inflation, as is taught by Boyd.

8. Claim 4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee, Jr. in view of Fisher et al. as applied to claims 1, 3, 5, 9, and 10 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,550,086 to Boyd.

Perez and Lee, Jr., as modified, discloses the claimed invention except for the inlet port being a unidirectional valve. Boyd discloses an inflatable product comprising a unidirectional inlet port. The valve is normally biased to the closed position to prevent changes in the inflatable product's level of inflation. Thus it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the inlet port as a unidirectional valve so as to prevent changes in the inflatable product's level of inflation.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Safavi whose telephone number is (703) 308-2481. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur., 8:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Shackelford can be reached on (703) 308-2978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**MICHAEL SAFAVI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 354**

M. Safavi  
November 24, 2004